

# Governor's Water Augmentation Council

## Long Term Augmentation Committee

### January 27, 2017 Meeting Summary

**Time: 10:00am – 12:00pm**

**Location: Arizona Department of Water Resources**

#### *Welcome and Opening Remarks*

Chairwoman Maureen George called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance. All participants in the meeting introduced themselves individually. The following members of the Governor's Water Augmentation Council (GWAC) were present: Warren Tenney, Wade Noble, Spencer Kamps, Chris Udall, and Virginia O'Connell.

#### *Define Goals/End Product/Timetable*

Chairwoman Maureen George opened the discussion to the Committee's feedback on acquiring water demand projections as far out as 2060.

Warren Tenney of Arizona Municipal Water Users Association (AMWUA) mentioned that the demand projections from the Water Resources Development Commission were overly optimistic at the time that it was published, and water demand has decreased since the economic downturn. He suggested that the Committee revisit the numbers from the report in order to determine what actions to consider to meet future demand.

Bruce Hallin from the Salt River Project (SRP) encouraged research on timelines within different areas of the state, as well as incremental steps that need to be taken to support a long-term strategy.

Wade Noble, representing the Agribusiness and Water Council of Arizona, agreed that a forty-year window is not meaningful unless it is met with interim stepping stones.

Juliet McKenna, from Montgomery & Associates, Inc, cautioned that the further out the projection data goes, the more the accuracy of them tends to decrease.

Chairwoman George warned the Committee that many water augmentation projects typically have a thirty-five to fifty-year timeframe from concept to completion, therefore demand projections should be obtained as soon as possible to expedite the process.

Gerry Walker from the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) stated that ADWR has utilized the most recent census data, and is actively acquiring data from the designated planning areas by holding extensive meetings to determine gallons per capita per day (GPCD). Current water demand projections extend out to 2050. Within the Active Management Areas (AMAs) the GPCD is calculated from the numbers reported by water providers. However, it is very difficult for ADWR to obtain accurate demand data by sector because it does not have reported data other than what is available from the

Arizona Corporate Commission (ACC) and Community Water System (CWS) annual water use reports. ADWR decided not use ACC data because the Commission does not require mandatory reporting nor are the reports qualitatively reliable.

Scott Deeny, representing the Nature Conservancy, expressed a willingness to share demand projections for the state from his organization.

Mr. Hallin was also offered to share SRP water demand data from past projects within areas such as Prescott and Prescott Valley, as well as known water supply options. He recommended that the Committee prioritize by areas with significant issues.

Virginia O'Connell, manager of the Arizona Water Banking Authority, mentioned that the Maricopa Association of Governments may have an idea of where growth is occurring in the state.

Mr. Noble informed the Committee that agriculture has opportunities with regards to water demand mitigation, alternative crops, and better irrigation efficiencies.

Mr. Deeny also offered to share information on Verde Valley efficiencies in crop switching.

Senator Lisa Otondo stated that the commercialization of industrial hemp as an alternative crop for Arizona farmers. She added that the variety of hemp referenced contained no tetrahydrocannabinol, and that seventeen products can be made from industrial hemp while only using a quarter to a third of the water needs of other popular crops in Arizona.

Chairwoman George recommended that the Committee use the data gathered to determine "hot spots" within the state that are in dire need of a solution to the challenge of meeting projected water demand, and then supplying a recommendation to the GWAC in regards to what studies the Committee should undertake in order to learn more about where the focus of the GWAC should be.

Ms. Walker replied that an analysis has been developed at the request of the Finance Committee for a "hot spot" map that depicts where demand and supply imbalances are the greatest, and that many of the areas with the greatest concern are currently being working with ADWR staff through the Planning Area process. The challenges that Ms. Walker posed to the Committee were in deciding which demand sector is driving the supply and demand imbalances, and what strategy to use to augment a certain sector. She disclosed that the agricultural sector water use tends to be the primary driver of water demand within the Planning Areas.

Mr. Hallin stated that the Finance Committee may be able to help to determine if the project may be too costly or feasible.

Mr. Tenney forewarned that water augmentation projects will not likely see federal support as they have in the past, and that many of these projects involve the effort to address regional problems currently. There is an importance, he added, in knowing what demand the Committee is trying to meet

and what sectors are being augmented. Funding will be much harder to find than it was in the past, he concluded.

Chairwoman George emphasized a need for a detailed study of projects that could address specific areas with a demand and supply imbalance with costs per-acre foot before the Committee makes any decisions on where to focus next. After the study is completed, the Committee would ask ADWR for the financial means to construct those projects. She does not want a state plan because it is not area specific.

Ms. Walker stated that ADWR will provide staff assistance who can assist with collecting information on reports regarding other states' action plans for water augmentation strategies.

Chairwoman George stated that she would like the Committee to have a recommendation for the GWAC by the end of the calendar year.

### Closing Remarks and Next Meeting Date

The next GWAC Desalination Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for March 3, 2017 at 10 a.m. at the Arizona Department of Water Resources, 1110 W. Washington, Suite 310, Phoenix, AZ 85007.